

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 01753 312108Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W  
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O 312054Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0104  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01753

EXDIS

E. O. 11652:XGDS1  
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, UK  
SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREE TO WITHHOLD  
STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: LONDON 1684

SUMMARY: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED JANUARY 31 ON  
TEXT OF STATEMENT OUTLINING UP-TO-DATE EC CONSENSUS ON  
MIDDLE EAST, BUT IN DEFERENCE TO US WISHES WILL NOT  
MAKE IT PUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE OF HIBBERT WHO WAS OTHERWISE ENGAGED,  
MICHAEL WEIR, FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY IN CHARGE  
OF MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, GAVE POLITICAL COUNSELOR  
PROMISED ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS' DISCUSSION  
JANUARY 31 OF PROPOSED STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST. AFTER  
FRENCH AGREED TO DELETE BRACKETS PREVIOUSLY INSERTED  
AROUND PHRASE "TO BE DEFINED IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL  
THE INTERESTED PARTIES" ALL AGREED THAT STATEMENT  
REPRESENTED UP-TO-DATE EC CONSENSUS ON MIDDLE EAST.

2. AS ANTICIPATED BY HIBBERT, CROSLAND THEN REVIEWED  
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EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEKEND AND ASKED FOR COMMENTS.  
GENSCHER WEIGHED IN TO ARGUE AGAINST RELEASE OF EC  
STATEMENT PRIOR TO FORTHCOMING VISITS TO MIDDLE EAST BY  
WALDHEIM, VANCE, DEGUIRINGAUD, AND HIMSELF. THERE WAS  
SOME CONCERN EXPRESSED BY OTHERS THAT EC MIGHT BE  
EMBARRASSED BY FAILURE TO ISSUE STATEMENT SINCE IT HAD  
ALREADY BEEN LEAKED TO PRESS. SPECIFICALLY, WEIR SAID,

THERE WAS CONCERN THAT PRESS MIGHT SPECULATE THAT EC HAD BOWED TO US PRESSURE, AND THAT THIS WOULD BE SEEN AS AN INAUSPICIOUS BEGINNING TO EC'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW US ADMINISTRATION. WHEN ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES, THEREFORE, EC SPOKESMAN WILL, IF ASKED, DENY US HAD EXERTED ANY PRESSURE.

3. WEIR REMARKED THAT SOME EC MEMBERS HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT US REACTION TO PROPOSED STATEMENT HAD BEEN "SO STERN," ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE HAD BEEN "NOTHING NEW" IN IT. HE NOTED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT USG HAD NOT REACTED TO EC STATEMENTS IN UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SAME SUBJECT LAST NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER (PRESUMABLY STATEMENTS OF NOVEMBER 6 AND 18 AND DECEMBER 7).

4. WHEN PRESSED AS TO PRECISE STATUS OF EC STATEMENT, WEIR REITERATED THAT IT REPRESENTED AN UP-TO-DATE CONSENSUS, BUT AGREED THAT A FRESH STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AFTER ALL TRAVELLERS RETURN FROM THE AREA.

ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, UK, EEC  
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**Type:** TE  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009